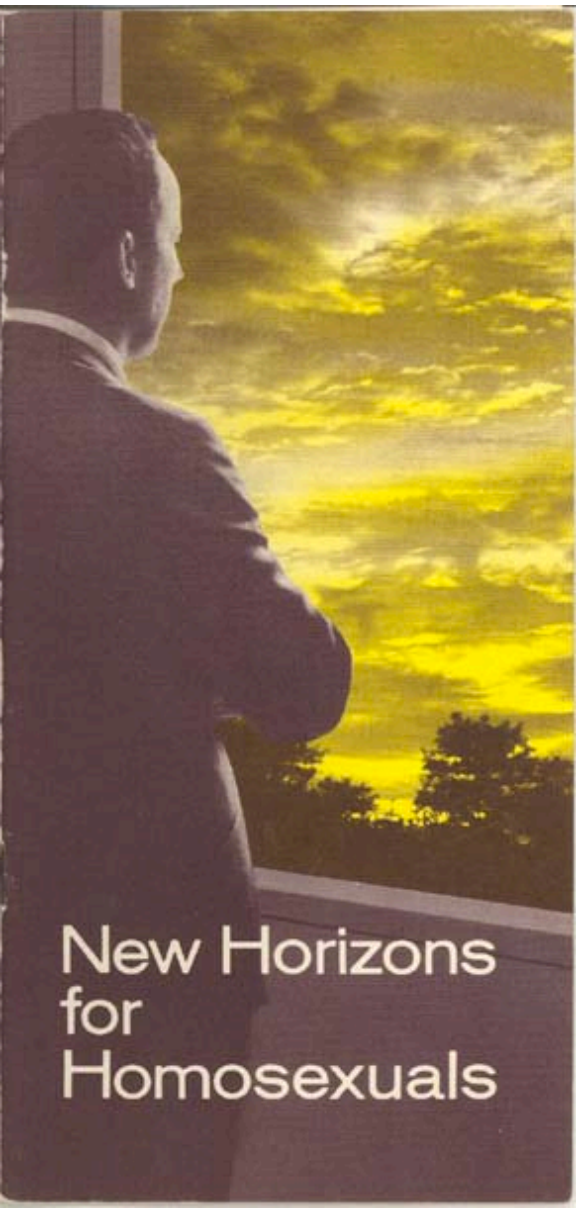

New Horizons
for
Homosexuals

New Horizons for Homosexuals

Published by
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints
1971

My Dear Friend:

I am your friend, your real friend, for I am trying hard to help you save yourself from pitfalls which, I am sure, you do not fully realize are gaping wide to swallow you, the victim. I approach this task cautiously. Most people are tender when questioned as to their private lives but I know of no other way to assist you except to boldly, but with kindness, bring these matters to your attention. You have your free agency and may do as you please. That is a God-given privilege, but free agency means also responsibility. In granting such choice, the Lord did not waive penalties and it is an unalterable decree that every man shall suffer or enjoy the due rewards of his deeds.

THE PROPHETS WEEP

Said Jacob, "I know that the words of truth are hard against all uncleanness: but the righteous fear them not, for they love the truth and are not shaken."

Some begin the ruinous practice of perversion through curiosity and then become entangled in its tentacles. Like other prophets, Nephi saw the transgressions of men and prayed continually over them: ". . . mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them . . . and I know that the Lord will consecrate my prayers for the gain of my people." He continues:

"And it speaketh harshly against sin, according to the plainness of the truth;

wherefore, no man will be angry at the words which I have written save he shall be of the spirit of the devil." II Nephi 33:3-5

HOPE FOR THE HOMOSEXUAL

For those just beginning in the practice of homosexuality or those deeply entrenched, there is hope. The Lord has promised:

"Therefore, whosoever repenteth and hardeneth not his heart, he shall have claim on mercy through mine only Begotten Son, unto a remission of his sins; and these shall enter into my rest." Alma 12:34

And again:

"Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more.

"By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will confess them and forsake them." D&C 58:42-43

Sex perversion is a hidden menace at first but eventually undermines and destroys its victim something like the fallen tree:

"Giant trees of the forest, lying low for no apparent cause, inspection discloses that under the bark out of sight an insect was making a hole no larger than a pin but cross-sectioning through the great giant. A weak link had thus been created and under some small pressure the giant went down and its weakness exposed. How like human life. Many men and women fair above board

who seem from outward appearances strong, but who are tolerating secret weaknesses and practices, thereby creating weak links that may be their undoing, leaving an open door for the enemy to assault them." Anon.

HOMOSEXUALITY IS SIN

Next to the crime of murder comes the sin of sexual impurity as expressed in its many manifestations: adultery, fornication, homosexuality and related transgressions. Man is created in the image of God and prostitutes his God-given powers and image in such practices. No amount of rationalization can really neutralize the pollution. The death penalty was exacted in the days of Israel for such wrong-doing.

These practices are somewhat like the use of drugs, alcoholism or other vicious habits which eventually take over control of the person and make him slave and put fetters on his wrists and rings in his nose and chains on his feet. No man is free when manacled with such fetters. These sins are forgivable and can be overcome if there is adequate restraint and repentance. There are those who tell you there is no cure and thus weaken your resolves and add to your frustration. They *can* be cured. They *can* be eventually forgiven. Your problem *can* be solved.

There are two forces working with every individual—one is the spirit of evil, the powers of darkness with a desire to enslave and destroy.

When Lucifer was expelled from the realms of God: ". . . he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will even as many as would not hearken unto my voice." Moses 4:4

THE SPIRIT STRIVES

The other influence is the spirit of the Lord striving to lift and inspire and build and save. If one lives all of the commandments of the Lord, then he has the power to withstand the temptations of the devil. If he yields to the evil one, then he gets weaker and weaker until he is unable to cope with the strength of the powers that afflict him.

When one commits evil, even in smaller degree, a guilt complex often settles on him and then usually he ceases praying and the loss of communication with the Lord places him even more in the power of the evil one.

SATAN DESIRES TO SEDUCE

Satan desires to enslave all mankind. His program is to lead astray all the children of God. He has boasted that he will do this, and to this end he has devised and concocted every plan imaginable to deceive and put fetters upon us.

Shakespeare has Banquo say to Macbeth:

". . . . . *But tis strange: And oftentimes, to win us to our harm, The instruments of darkness tell us truths,*

Win us with honest trifles, to betray's
In deepest consequences . . . . . "
Macbeth - Act I, iii 122-iv

SIFT AS WHEAT

Lucifer is clever, he is experienced, he is brainy. He seeks to nullify the work of the Savior. Simon Peter, the first apostle, was not spared his machination.

"And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed that thy faith fail not . . ."
Luke 22: 31-32

MOSES' BATTLE WITH SATAN

Recognizing the great potential for good in the great Moses, Satan did all in his power to divert Moses and control him. This is a dramatic story. Read the first chapter of Moses in the Pearl of Great Price. Note how Moses finally conquered and gained ascendancy and threw off the shackles with which Satan had hoped to manacle him.

When the Lord said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man . . ." this is not because the spirit is unwilling to strive but because he is made so unwelcome. He is willing to come to the rescue of anyone who really wants to be helped, who will yeild to assistance. But when a person pushes the spirit away and ignores and puts out the 'unwelcome sign,' eventually the spirit of the Lord ceases to strive. He does not move away from the individual; it is

the person who moves away from the Lord. The transgressor may go far away but when he returns repentant and in proper mood and attitude, there stands the Lord ready to receive him. It is the person who created the chasm and widened the gap.

PERVERSION IS FORGIVABLE

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest . . ." said the Master. Matthew 11: 28-30

The Lord, His Church, and we, His leaders, love you. Our Lord hates sin but still woos the sinner. He says:

"For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance;

"Nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven . . .

"And he that repents not, from him shall be taken even the light which he has received; for my Spirit shall not always strive with man, saith the Lord of Hosts." D&C 1:31-33

SATAN ENTICETH TO EVIL

The great prophet Moroni has this to say:

"Wherefore, all things which are good cometh of God; and that which is evil cometh of the devil; for the devil is an enemy unto God, and fighteth against him continually, and inviteth and enticeth to sin, and to do that which is evil continually.

"But behold, that which is of God

inviteth and enticeth to do good continually; wherefore, every thing which inviteth and enticeth to do good, and to love God, and to serve him, is inspired of God.

"Wherefore, take heed, my beloved brethren, that ye do not judge that which is evil to be of God, or that which is good and of God to be of the devil." Moroni 7:12-14

Definitely and positively these scriptures do apply to the homosexual as well as to the adulterer, the idolater, and the robber. Too often people do not apply the scriptures to themselves.

"And wo unto the deaf that will not hear; for they shall perish.

"Wo unto the blind that will not see; for they shall perish also." II Nephi 9: 31-32

Jacob warns again:

"And, in fine, wo unto all those who die in their sins; for they shall return to God, and behold his face, and remain in their sins.

"O, my beloved brethren, remember the awfulness in transgressing against that Holy God, and also the awfulness of yielding to the enticings of that cunning one. Remember, to be carnally-minded is death, and to be spiritually-minded is life eternal." II Nephi 9:38-39

SHOULD ACCEPT BLAME

The gospel is summarized in the Articles of Faith, one of which says, "We believe that men will be punished for their own sins . . ." While environ-

ment and associations and training have an important part in persons' lives, every normal person is responsible for his own sins and may not blame them totally on others. In a circular from the Bank of Montreal, we read:

"The time has come to grow up, and growing up consists in the main of bringing random impulses under control and coordinating hit-and-miss activities. The mature world, whether business, professional or technical has no use for you youths who enter it glorifying infantilism . . . like a small child crying, 'Look at me,' as he jumps off a six-inch step."

Man can grow up and become mature and with the Lord's help, be the master of his fate and the captain of his soul as Ernest Henly gave us in "Invictus":

"Out of the night that covers me
Black as the pit from pole to pole
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul . . .
It matters not how straight the gate
How charged with punishment the scroll
I am the master of my fate
I am the captain of my soul."

IT IS CURABLE

Now let us assure you that you are not permanently trapped in this unholy practice if you will exert yourself. Though it is like an octopus with numerous tentacles to drag you to your tragedy, the sin is curable and you may

totally recover from its tentacles. One of Satan's strongest weapons is to make the victim believe the practice incurable regardless of one's effort. Lucifer is the "Father of all lies."

Satan tells his victims that it is a *natural way of life;* that it is normal; that perverts *are a different kind of people born 'that way'* and *that they cannot change.* This is a base lie. All normal people have sex urges and if they control such urges, they grow strong and masterful. If they yield to their carnal desires and urges, they get weaker until their sins get beyond control.

"The knowledge that homosexuality can be effectively treated must be made more generally known, to offset the effect of organized groups of homosexuals who would have society accept homosexuality and relieve them of the pressure to undergo the changes that can be effected through appropriate treatment. To permit oneself to be convinced that it is incurable is the defeatest attitude. It can be overcome and the case of difficulty of overcoming depends largely upon the strength or weakness of the individual, the depth of his entrenchment, the quality and quantity of his desire and determination." Psychiatric Spectator, Vol. II No. 4—January 1965

Many other authorities in the field have proclaimed that homosexuality, like fornication, adultery, robbery, and other detestable sins is curable.

Knowing it can be overcome, the Lord's Church makes the appeal to

repentance and urges a transformation of life. The Church never mentions punishment and penalties except as a last resort when all appeals and warnings are ignored.

Another authority states:

"There is one more cogent argument for retaining laws against homosexuality. Its practice can and does break up families; and the protection of the family is a legitimate area of legislation. Repeal would imply an indifference that society cannot afford. Until it finds a better way of discouraging this practice, a statute at least expresses society's disapproval." Life, *June 11, 1965*

DRY WELLS – LEAKY CISTERNS

Jeremiah wrote of sin: "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." Jeremiah 2:13

Homosexuality certainly is a leaky cistern. It means waste of power, an end to the family and to the civilization. One generation of it would depopulate the world leaving it a dry well as Peter described. Read II Peter 2

Nephi indicated that it:

". . . shall be as a dream of a night vision; yea, it shall be unto them, even as a hungry man which dreameth, and behold he eateth but he awaketh and his soul is empty; or like unto a thirsty man which dreameth, and behold he drinketh but he awaketh and behold

he is faint, and his soul hath appetite . . ." *II Nephi 27:3*

There are people in this practice who are novices and have only attempted to satisfy curiosity. They can cleanse themselves with less difficulty, but those who persist and let it become their obsession will have to struggle harder, yet all can overcome it.

POINT OF NO RETURN

Some continue until, when the changing gets difficult, they admit their inability to cope with it and yield. They rationalize that they are of another class of people; that the Lord made them that way; that they cannot change. The powerful Lucifer has had his day. He whispers into their ears: "This is no sin. You are no transgressor. I am no devil. There is no Evil One. There is no black—all is white for you."

If you are one who has yielded to the enticings of evil people and Lucifer, the "father of all lies," then it should begin to be evident to you that the farther you go, the deeper you get. Today is the day to make the change and reformation.

SEEK HELP

Are you ready to admit that you are the weak victim—the fettered? If you cannot recover on your own decreasing power, you should then seek help from your bishop, your stake president, or a General Authority, and you *can* be helped, and you *can recover*, and you

can become the man your Heavenly Father created you to be.

NO HIDDEN SINS

You might be able for a time to deceive your associates and leaders. But, you cannot lie to yourself nor to your lord, for in spite of all the rationalization, you know deep in your heart what you are. You may be able to convince your mind that it is not so wrong but down deep in your heart, you will always be uneasy and unhappy and know that your sin is vicious and base. Remember there are no rooms with such tight windows or with blinds so heavy but that the Lord and his angels know what is going on. There are no corners so dark, canyons or hills or deserts so remote but that every word and act and thought is known and is recorded. The revelation speaking of the bearing of testimonies states:

"Nevertheless, ye are blessed, for the testimony which ye have borne is recorded in heaven for the angels to look upon; and they rejoice over you, and your sins are forgiven you." D&C 62:3

Heaven knows and nothing can be hidden.

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:12

Note that judgment is not according to their wishes, nor to their intents nor what their logic prompted nor what their rationalizations allowed but "according to their works" done in mortality.

The prophet Ezekiel struck it hard:

". . . *Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The Lord seeth us not . . .*" *Ezekiel 8:12*

What are the pictures in *your* "chambers of imagery"? There is recorded like a continuing television picture all the imagery which passes through your mind. There are those self-styled intellectual giants who seem to think that their ponderings rank with the thoughts of the Lord.

OPINION OR FACT

One young man sought to pit his reasoning against the things I told him, saying: "That is your opinion and *this* is mine." This caused me to say, "My dear boy, if it were my opinion against yours, I would have nothing more to say. As an individual my mind might be dull compared to yours; my thoughts might be elementary compared with your erudite ones, but you have forgotten a basic truth. I am not expressing my thoughts only. When I say this is sin, I am quoting the Creator of the world. Truth is truth and needs no eloquent tongue nor brilliant brain to portray it. You are using the logic of one

mind, however keen it might be; I am expressing the truths of God as interpreted by six thousand years of the Lord's prophets in addition to the Lord, himself, the Christ, the Savior, the Creator, the Redeemer. Why do you continue to 'kick against the pricks' "?

RATIONALIZATION

If ten million rationalists combine to find out a truth they can never, worlds without end, find a truth unless they follow the path of truth. If they parallel the Lord's truth with their own, that is excellent. But if they counter the Lord's basic truths, the more they rationalize, the farther they will get away on the diverging lines.

Men often need to be humbled. Isaiah promises it:

"And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled." II Nephi 15:15

"Wo unto them that call evil good, and good evil, that put darkness for light, and light for darkness, that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

"Wo unto the wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight!" II Nephi 15:20-21

"Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

". . . Or who shut up the sea with

doors . . . Hast thou *commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place . . . Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? . . . Where is the way where light dwelleth? . . . Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? Out of whose womb came the ice? . . . ."*

Please read on—Job 38

Then, I said to this young man, "You are brilliant. Use your brains to think and ponder and explore but never presume 'to counsel your God' and don't presume to call black, white just because you think it so. Do not presume to change vital, basic eternal truths. The truth is truth regardless of all accumulated opinions arrayed against it. Sin is sin, the devil to the contrary. Rationalizations cannot change it. Life is eternal. God is at the helm. Be sure you are always found on the Lord's side.

Alma asked:

"Or do ye imagine . . . ye can lie unto the Lord. . . .

" Or otherwise, can ye imagine yourselves brought before the tribunal of God with your souls filled with guilt and remorse, having a remembrance of all your guilt, yea, a perfect remembrance of all your wickedness . . . ?

"I say unto you, can ye look up to God at that day with a pure heart and clean hands? . . ."

". . . there can no man be saved except his garments are washed white;

yea, his garments must be purified until they are cleansed from all stain, through the blood of him of whom it has been spoken by our fathers, who should come to redeem his people from their sins." Alma 5:17-19, 21.

And, men must remember that their thoughts as well as their acts condemn them or glorify them. The Lord's prophet has often quoted the following verse:

Sow a thought, reap an act,
Sow an act, reap a habit,
Sow a habit, reap a character,
Sow a character, reap an eternal destiny.

SIN CANNOT BE COVERED

Is any man so naive spiritually that he would think he could hide himself from God and from himself? When the Lord said unto Cain, "Where is Abel, thy brother?" do you think the Lord was merely asking for information? He *knew* where Abel was, and he *knew* what had happened to Abel. And then he said to the guilty one, "What hast thou done?" The Lord knew well. The Lord knows everything that goes on in automobiles, in bedrooms, in public rest rooms; in dark corners. One cannot hide his perversion any more than Cain could hide his murder. And like Cain, every soul will some day answer as did Cain. Read this story again in Genesis, Chapter 4.

When Ananias and Sapphira brought in their contribution toward communal living of the early-day Saints, Peter said:

"*. . . why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost? . . .*

"*. . . why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*" *Acts 5:3-4.*

And it is recorded:

"*. . . and those who are not pure, and have said they were pure, shall be destroyed, saith the Lord God.*" *D&C 132:52.*

Now if you are one who has been deeply entrenched and who has given up the fight, and has rationalized and convinced himself that this perverted program is an honorable way of life, you should now make the superhuman effort to rid yourself of your master, the devil, Satan—He is not your friend but your bitterest enemy. He will promise you what you want to have but will never tell you the consequences.

WHEN REPENTANCE IS IMPOSSIBLE

So long as the Spirit of the Lord is striving with you, there still is hope. But when you reach the point where you justify yourself; sear over your conscience; pretend it is not sin; admit that you are 'licked', and that you cannot overcome it—that is the *sad* day. When one so far succumbs that he says, "This is the way I wish to live; here I find my satisfactions; I commit no immorality; I will not change," then the tragic moment has come. When one says, "I am different; God made me this way; my parents are to blame; my upbringing

was responsible," certainly, he has arrived at a pitiable place. We speak of the 'point of no return'. That is the place of greatest tragedy. God made no man a pervert. To blame a weakness and transgression upon God is cowardly.

James said:

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death [*spiritual death*]. *" James 1:13-15.*

DENS OF VICE

Pure logic also outlaws this practice. The world cannot survive through this ugly practice. Imagine if you can, the total race skidding down in this practice like Sodom did—no more marriages, no more children, no more family life—just one generation of gratification of lusts and the end. Imagine if you can, the whole society accommodating its standards to this low level: the law-makers rescinding laws against such sin, the public sentiment accepting the perversion so that neither judge nor jury nor law-enforcement officers could protect society. Can you imagine the voices of ever decreasing righteous being stilled, and the ever increasing volume of those who love and live the

lic. Where would the world go if such a practice became general? The answer: To the same place other unbridled civilizations have gone. If you have thought that down the line to its certain conclusion, you have Gomorrah and you have Sodom.

Rome, Jerusalem and Babylon followed, and London, Paris and Chicago are in their steps. Says the LIFE magazine:

"In New York City, swarms of young college-age homosexuals wearing tight pants, baggy sweaters and sneakers cluster in ragged phalanx . . ."

San Francisco known as the "Gay Capital" is said to have more than thirty bars for "homos". Inspector Fish is reputed by LIFE Magazine to have said that the 3069 arrests for homosexual offenses made in Los Angeles last year represented merely a "token number" of those that should have been arrested.

Is man created that he might gratify his urges, desires, passions and lusts, or, are such given as a part of his life to be controlled and used in proper ways for proper purposes.

MULTIPLY–REPLENISH

From the beginning, the Lord has commanded mankind to multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it; and from that day until now, the prophets have denounced and condemned any of these unnatural and improper practices which make multiplying impossible and which kill that which is the

basis of true civilization—the home and family.

Many men in this practice, conditioned against marriage, have used as excuse that marriage has failed. Certainly, numerous marriages have not measured up. Divorce has proved the weakness and selfishness of man. But even if 99 percent of all marriages failed, the principle is still right, for as Paul said, "Neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man in the Lord." I Cor. 11:11

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh." *Abraham 5:18*

And, in our modern revelation, the Lord says:

"Thou shalt love thy *wife* [*husband*] *with all thy heart, and shalt cleave unto* her [*him*] *and* none else." *D&C 42:22*

If you are deeply entrenched in this perversion, you may have set aside temporarily your faith and your beliefs and may have crushed them into the ground with your heel, but you are not through with them for *you know* that evil is evil no matter how much it is covered with supposedly sweet toppings.

The fact that you cannot in prayer ask the Lord's blessings on such an act is itself eloquent evidence of the evil in this practice.

Talking to his son Corianton, Alma proclaims:

"Now, the decrees of God are un-

alterable; therefore, the way is prepared that whosoever will may walk therein and be saved."

". . . Behold, I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness." Alma 41:8, 10

The Lord said in our own day:

"For, I, the Lord, have decreed . . . that inasmuch as any man . . . shall be found a transgressor . . . he shall be cursed in his life . . . .

"For, I, the Lord, am not to be mocked in these things. . . ." D&C 104:5-6

MAN CAN CURSE HIMSELF

Now, you should remember that the Lord does not generally do the cursing. Man curses himself. If he breaks a natural law, he suffers. If he drops off the ship in mid-ocean, he drowns. If he jumps off a high cliff or a skyscraper he destroys his body and ends his mortal life. If he swallows poison, he pays the penalty. If he inhales too much gas, his body dies. If he smokes long and constantly, he may suffer lung cancer. The Psalms agree:

"Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted." Psalms 107:17

Man brings on his own curses. The law of retribution is sure. No one is smart, clever nor cunning enough to miss the eventual penalties which come from breaking laws. He may hide for awhile; he may deceive for a time; he may come to think he is 'getting by' with his perfidy, but the day comes when he 'shall be holden with the cords

of his sins' and when he must account for every word and act and thought. The Lord himself said with emphasis:

"*. . . every idle word (and this would include act and thought) that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*" *Matthew 12:36.* And in our own day, the revelation reads:

"*And the rebellious shall be pierced with much sorrow; for their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed.*" *D&C 1:3*

Those who tell you that your sin can be kept secret lie to you. Regardless of what they make you think, you will give account of your every evil act and thought.

Homosexuality had gone "under ground" because of social pressures, but is now trying to impress the public to make this vicious sex life acceptable. Society as it degenerates might skid down the hill toward acceptance of the sin, but the Lord and his true Church will never condone these sexual sins. God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

In the Nephite records, we have this verse: "For every man receiveth wages of whom he listeth to obey . . ." Alma 3:27

And Jesus proclaimed: "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." John 8:34

This is easy to deny in words but if you have yielded long enough, you know

well that you have been "hooked." You have lost your free agency. You do the bidding of your master. Do you revel in the thought that you are in ugly servitude? If you have given up and cannot express your will, then screw up your courage, and seek for help. If you still have some vestige of self-control and self will, then act at once before you are totally conquered.

Paul said: "Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men." 1 Cor. 7:23

You are in abject bondage, a servant compelled to the will of your master, the devil, Lucifer, Satan, if you persist in sin. "Ye are children of whom you obey; your father, the Devil?"

When fruit is ripe, it falls to the ground and rots. When man is ripe in sin, his tragedy finally catches up with him.

REPENT

The Lord is specific:

"Therefore I command you to repent —repent, lest I smite you by the rod of my mouth, and by my wrath, and by my anger, and your sufferings be sore—how sore you know not, how exquisite you know not, yea, how hard to bear you know not.

"For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent;

"But if they would not repent, they must suffer even as I;

"Which suffering caused myself,

even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit —and would that I might not drink the bitter cup. . . ." D&C 19:15-18

Now, this is no myth. The Lord suffered great agonies—mental, physical and spiritual. He was abandoned by his friends. He was ignored and called vicious names. He was slapped and beaten and abused. He was spat upon. Every indignity that could be imposed upon him came from those for whom he was about to die. And then they crucified him—the most terrible death which one could imagine—excruciating pain from the nails, and the draining blood, the fever, the thirst, none of which could be imagined fully by any of us.

The Lord makes clear a vital truth: "My blood shall not cleanse them if they hear me not."

The Prophet Samuel put fear into hearts as he said:

"But behold, your days of probation are past; ye have procrastinated the day of your salvation until it is everlastingly too late, and your destruction is made sure; yea, for ye have sought all the days of your lives . . . for happiness in doing iniquity, which thing is contrary to the nature of that righteousness which is in our great and Eternal Head." Helaman 13:38

Men and women were not created to satisfy their lusts. Only controlled passion under proper circumstances should be a part of one's life. There is no

place for indiscriminate looseness.

WILL FORGIVE

Now, the glorious thing about the whole matter, as stated above, is that the Lord will forgive when repentance is sincere and sufficient. The scriptures are as full of those assurances as they are of commands to repent. God is good. He is eager to forgive; he wants his children to perfect themselves and maintain total control. But the repentance cannot be half-hearted—it must be total. Read Revelations 2:17; 3:3-4; 3:12; 3:17-19.

And the Revelator John said further:

"... *These [arrayed in white robes] ... are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

"*Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*" *Rev. 7:14-15.*

When one has washed his robes in the blood of the Lamb, they are no longer soiled.

DEPENDABLE COUNSELORS

False counselors have no love for you but seek only what you might be able to do for them. If such persons have convinced you that this way of living is not degenerate, then they are likely degenerate themselves, and are in reality your worst enemies.

Isaiah asks:

"And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?" Isaiah 10:3.

Think for yourself what would these persons do for you should you suddenly fall victim to an incurable disease. Suppose your body shriveled; suppose you could no longer satisfy sexually; suppose you could no longer be "used." How long would the alleged friendship and this distorted so-called "love" last?

Suppose you lost your reason. Would vicious men still want you? To whom would you flee? Where would you find your real friends? When you are old and wrinkled and undesirable and nauseating, will any man who has defiled you pick you up and nurse you and provide for you? In troublous times, men are usually grateful to have parents and wives and children bound to them by loyalties and deep-rooted affections. Will your sin-mates meet those situations?

These unnatural practices are not of God—they are of the devil, the master liar and deceiver who laughs as he rattles and chains when he has deceived a person.

Even if your partner in sin should be a psychiatrist, a medical man, a psychologist and if he teaches that these immoralities are harmless, he is either deceived or a vicious deceiver. Shun him.

"O that cunning plan of the evil one! O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! When they are learned they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves, wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness . . . And they shall perish." II Nephi 9:28

You may have tried to convince yourself against the Gospel and the Church. Naturally, your testimony wanes and nearly expires like clinkers in a furnace when you are breaking all the laws; for "whom we serve, we love," and "Whom we disobey, we hate." When you cease praying to God, that does not exterminate God. When you hide your head in the sand like the proverbial ostrich, the world does not cease to exist. When you pretend to disbelieve, you have changed nothing but yourself. Lies are still lies; truths are still truths; sins are still sins; enemies are still enemies; and friends are still friends. You are smart when you can distinguish between your friends who will go all out to help you restore yourself, and your enemies who will do all in their power to debase you and defile you.

So long as you tolerate this "gay world" and its degenerate people, you are in a very desperate situation and you are playing with fire just like a child who might be pounding a bomb with a hammer.

Nephi carried on further:

"And wo unto the deaf that will

not hear; for they shall perish.

"Wo unto the blind that will not see; for they shall perish also.

"Wo unto the uncircumcised of heart, for a knowledge of their iniquities shall smite them at the last day.

* * * *

"Wo unto them who commit whoredoms, for they shall be thrust down to hell.

* * * *

"And, in fine, wo unto all those who die in their sins; for they shall return to God, and behold his face, and remain in their sins.

"O, my beloved brethren . . . Do not say that I have spoken hard things against you; for if ye do, ye will revile against the truth; for I have spoken the words of your Maker . . ." II Nephi 9:31, 32, 33, 36, 38, 40

Remember:

" . . . men are free according to the flesh . . . And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil: for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself. . . ." 2 Nephi 2:27

Now, my brother, you may burn this letter with your hands but it will never be burned out of your heart, nor your mind. You may deny God in words and in actions but you can never erase Him from your soul, having once known and testified numerous times of Him. You may deceive your-

self and rationalize that life is for fun and sex and pleasure and gratification of the baser desires, but you will never totally believe it down deep in your heart.

You have your free agency. It may be that you will continue with your transgressions and further defile your body. You may frustrate your mind, but you must remember: the law of retribution is as sure as is life. No one will ever "get by" with anything. He will answer for his every act, thought, and word eventually.

You also know deep in your heart that the Church and the Lord have no ulterior motives—the only desire being for the restoration of you, yourself, a son of God, made in his image. This letter is written with a prayerful hope that you will listen and study and pray and return, for the Lord says:

FORGIVENESS

"If you will return to me, I will return to you."

What can be compared to your losing your Church membership, your priesthood, your blessings, your soul? They might never be restored to you. Men who die may live again, but when the spiritual death is total, it were better that such a man were never born.

Now, you may move away and hide yourself from the law and the Church, but like Cain, you can never hide from yourself, your conscience, or from God. Today is the day to "turn about face."

Whether you know that the live wire is there or not makes no difference in the result. If you touch the high power line, you will be in agony and likely die.

Whether or not you believe these scriptures or the things written above, they are still true and will ever be a testimony against you.

Now, my dear friend, may I implore you to consider seriously all that has been written. Homosexuality and like practices are deep sins; they can be cured; they can be forgiven. Remember, the Lord loves you; the Church loves you. We are most anxious to assist you. The Lord lives. The Church is divine. God is unchangeable. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. His basic doctrines are unchangeable. Sin is still sin and always will be. It will not change. Society might relax in its expectations; it may accept improprieties but that does not make such right and approved. Total transformation in ideals, standards, actions, thoughts and programs can cleanse you.

IN SUMMARY

REMEMBER:

Homosexuality CAN be cured, if the battle is well organized and pursued vigorously and continuously.

Homosexuality, like other serious sins, CAN be forgiven by the Church and the Lord if the repentance is total, all-inclusive, and continuing.

Homosexuality is not the fault totally

of family conditions. Every normal person must answer for his own sins.

God did not make men evil. He did not make people "that way."

The bishop has power and resources far beyond secular training. D&C 46:27.

Satan will continue to thwart all efforts to change a life. Luke 22:31, 32.

Prayer is most important in recovery. Luke 22:46.

Scripture reading provides a clean atmosphere.

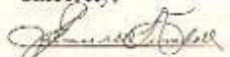
ABANDONMENT of persons, places, things, situations which have been associated with the transgression is vital. Substitution of good for bad is the answer. See Luke 11:21-26.

Remember also, if you repent, the *"... burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed ..." 2 Nephi 20:27*

We urge you to get in touch with your stake president or your bishop or with us and help will come. Having read this letter, you will never in time nor eternity forget it, nor its message totally. The Lord will bless you for every effort you make. May his peace eventually come back into your soul.

Our kind wishes.

Sincerely,



Spencer W. Kimball

Historically, homosexuality is condemned by the prophets.

See:

Leviticus 20:13, 15
Romans 1:26-28
Matthew 19:12
Ezekiel 18:21-23
2 Nephi 33:3-5
Moses 4:4
D&C 1:31-32
2 Nephi 9:31-34
2 Peter 2:17
Revelation 20:12
2 Nephi 15:19-21
2 Nephi 20:33
Acts 5:3-4
Abraham 5:18
D&C 104:5-6
Leviticus 18:22
1 Corinthians 6:9
John 8:11
2 Nephi 9:40
Alma 12:34
Revelation 3:20-21
D&C 1:33
2 Nephi 9:38-39
2 Nephi 27:3
Ezekiel 8:12
2 Nephi 20:15
Alma 5:17-21
D&C 132:52
D&C 42:22
Revelation 3:4-5
Revelation 7:13-15
Alma 3:27
2 Nephi 9:20-28
2 Nephi 10:23
Mosiah 16:11-12
Alma 3:26-27
D&C 19:15-18
Psalm 107:17
Deuteronomy 23:17
Matthew 18:8-9
1 Nephi 3:7
2 Nephi 9:40
D&C 58:42-43
Matthew 11:28-30
Moroni 7:12-14
Jeremiah 2:13
D&C 62:3
2 Nephi 15:15
Job 38, 39
Genesis, Chapter 4
James 1:13-15
Alma 41:5-10
Matthew 12:30
D&C 1:3
John 8:34
D&C 18:6
Revelation 2:17
Revelation 3:17-19
2 Nephi 20:3
2 Nephi 9:29
2 Nephi 2:27
Ether 2:15
2 Nephi 20:27
Psalm 1:7
1 Corinthians 7:23
D&C 18:11
Helaman 13:38
Revelation 3:12
Jeremiah 50:6
2 Nephi 26:22
2 Nephi 9:31-38, 40
Mosiah 26:35-36
Moroni 9:4

Photographed by

in the United States of America

Form 2401 7/71

Stock HM 482